REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment.

Applicants' amendments do not introduce new matter.

1. Amendment to the Specification

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 120, the specification has been amended to recite the divisional status of this application, and its relationship to previous applications filed by the Applicants.

2. Amendment to the Claims

In prior filed application Serial No. 10/281,800, the claims were restricted into three Groups:

Group I: Claim 1, drawn to a composition, classified (by the Examiner) in class 514, subclass 312.

Group II: Claim 2 drawn to a process of preparing, classified (by the Examiner) in class 546, subclass 155.

Group III: Claims 3 drawn to a process of preparing, classified (by the Examiner) in class 546, subclass 153.

This application presents for prosecution Group II (claim 2). Applicants note that claim 2 has been amended¹ to incorporate, into the preamble, the chemical name of the final product synthesized in the method as claimed.

Applicants have amended claim 2 to further their business interests and expressly reserve the right to prosecute the original claim, or claim(s) similar thereto, in subsequently filed application(s).

Claim 1 (Group I) has been cancelled as this claim was allowed in co-pending application No. 10/281,800 (our File No.: CUTLER-07193). Claim 3 (Groups III) has been cancelled without prejudice to prosecuting the same in another application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 31, 2003

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